

Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

At page 1, lines 13-18, please delete the original section entitled "RELATED APPLICATIONS" AS FOLLOWS:

~~RELATED APPLICATIONS~~

~~This application claims the priority benefits of U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 60/248,134, filed by Quay on November 13, 2000 and U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 60/248,136, filed by Quay on November 13, 2000. The disclosures of each of the foregoing priority applications are incorporated herein by reference in their entirety.~~

At page 1, beginning at the first line following the Title, please add a new RELATED APPLICATIONS section changing priority of the application, as follows:

RELATED APPLICATIONS

a1
This application claims the priority benefits of U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 60/248,134, filed by Quay on November 13, 2000 and U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 60/248,136, filed by Quay on November 13, 2000. This application also claims the benefit as a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application No. 10/404,866, filed March 31, 2003, which is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application No. 09/435,131 filed November 5, 1999, which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application No. 08/709,207, filed August 27, 1996, now United States Patent Number 5,798,266.

Please amend the paragraph at page 59, line 28 to page 60, line 6, as follows:

a2
In various specific embodiments, the tube or vial engages an inner wall 292 of the casing member 290 and forms a generally airtight seal against it. For example, the casing member and vial may be complementarily sized and dimensioned to provide substantially airtight contact between the inner wall of the casing member wall and an outer wall 294, or a top end 296 or bottom end 298, of the vial when the casing member and vial are coupled to form the assembled

a2
housing. In certain embodiments, the outer wall of the vial features a circumferential ridge or fin 299 that engages and thereby makes a circumferential airtight seal against the inner wall of the casing member when the vial is nested with the casing member (see, e.g., Figs. 16-20). In more detailed embodiments, the fin or ridge is replaced by a flexible O-ring 300 that seats in a circumferential O-ring groove 302 on the outer surface of the vial and forms a circumferential seal with the inner casing wall.

Please amend the paragraph at page 64, line 26 to page 65, line 2, as follows:

a3
Within this aspect of the invention, the reservoir may be adapted for removable, sealable connection with the outer casing member of said housing, to form an airtight coupling therewith. In certain embodiments, the fluid-retaining reservoir is a cytology vial sealably connectable with the outer casing member to form the airtight coupling. For example, the fluid-retaining reservoir can be removably nested within the casing member to form a substantially airtight contact between an inner wall of the casing member wall and an outer wall, or a top or bottom end, of the reservoir member. To achieve this function, the outer wall of the fluid-retaining reservoir may be provided with a circumferential ridge, fin or O-ring adapted to engage and make a circumferential airtight seal against the inner wall of the casing member.
